## **BUCEROS**

### Envis Newsletter: Avian Ecology & Inland Wetlands

Vol. 3, No. 3, (1998)

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PAPERS ON WETLANDS FROM THE

JOURNAL OF THE BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (VOLUMES 1-40)



Bombay Natural History Society

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#### **Editorial**

The Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society was first published in 1886 and has reached its ninety-fifth volume. The Society's Journal has been documenting the natural history of the Indian subcontinent and some of the countries adjoining it. This issue of Buceros is an index of papers on wetlands from Volumes 1 to 40 of the Journal. Work on the indexing of the subsequent issues is in progress, and will be brought out in future issues of Buceros. We hope our readers will be:

To our sad faults, a little blind.
To our small merits, very kind!
(Courtesy: Stray Feathers: A.O. Hume 1873)



#### INTRODUCTION

The Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society is now in its ninety-fifth volume. genesis of the Journal was in 1886 (three years after the founding of the Bombay Natural History Society), when the need felt to maintain record permanent of the meetings held at the Society, where papers on natural history were read and discussed, specimens collected exhibited or described and field accounts of hunters narrated. It would also keep outstation members in touch with the Society.

first issue of the The Journal (Vol. 1, No. 1) was published in January 1886 under the editorship of E.H. Aitken, well known for classics Behind the Bungalow, The Tribes on my Frontier and A Naturalist on the Prowl. Aitken left the editorship within a year, and Volume 2 was brought out under the editorship of R.A. Sterndale and H.M. Phipson. Editorship of the Journal over the years, passed on to a legion of many other great personalities of Indian natural history, some of whom were N.B. Kinnear, W.S. Millard, Charles McCann, S.H. Prater and Sálim Ali.

The contributions to the Journal at first consisted largely of sporting and popular articles written mostly by members of the Society, who were generally observant sportsmen and field naturalists. The scope of these contributions steadily expanded, and serious scientific papers by acknowledged experts have now become a regular feature of its The transformation of the Journal to a more technical treatise was a source of criticism from many of the members of Society, who considered such write-ups 'too dry and high brow' for them. However, the attempts of the editors to cater to such readers once in a while, was greeted by an equal dose of protest from those who wanted the Journal to be more scientific and not 'descend down to the level of story telling'. To create a sort of balance, the Society started the publication of a popular, illustrated magazine for members in 1976, The miscellaneous Hornbill. notes section in the Journal still retains the flavour of the old journals to some extent.

There had been proposals during the years to re-christen the *Journal* to *Hornbill* or one of

its Indian equivalents, Garuda for the sake of a shorter title. Another name suggested was Buceros (which is now the name of this newsletter!). There are well-known precedents for this kind of change in name, e.g., The Auk, which was earlier known as The Journal of the American Ornithologists Union. The proposal did not get sufficient support from the Society's members, one argument against it being that a name like Hornbill would make one assume the Journal to be an ornithological journal and not a natural history one (as it truly is). Thus the Journal bears the same name since the first issue.

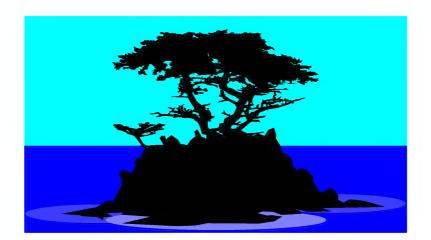
The popularity and scientific prestige of the Journal can be gauged by the consistent demand for complete sets by various institutions, libraries and universities within the country and abroad. Most of the earlier volumes are either out of print or brittle with age, and due financial constraints to volumes, instead of reprinting, reproduced have been microfiche. Microfiche films of Volumes 1 to 64 are now available and stocks of the subsequent volumes are as now sufficient to meet a reasonable demand.

Indexing of papers in journals is essential for easy

reference and retrieval. The Society's Journal has been indexed to some extent. An author and subject index was done for volumes 1 to 63. This was followed by a title page and species index of volumes 64 to 71 and volumes 79, 80 and 82. For various reasons, the work was left incomplete. The next major indexing, species region-wise, was by Aasheesh Pittie of the papers on birds from Volumes 1 to 90. The ENVIS Centre at the BNHS is involved an on-going exercise creating a database on publications on birds and inland wetlands of the Indian subcontinent that emanated from journals, books, theses and reports from India and abroad.

This issue of *Buceros* is an index of the publications on wetlands and their related flora and fauna of India (except bird related literature) of volumes 1 to 40 from the Society's Journal. It is organised on broad based subject heads, such as algae, aquatic vegetation, aquatic insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. references under each subject arranged head are alphabetically. Additionally, we have mentioned the site where the observation or study was done, in brackets at the end of each reference. At the end of each subject head, there is a list of the countries, states (for India only) and geographical regions. These places have the numbers alloted to the references under each subject head. This allows one to easily locate all the references of a particular state

or region from the index, and one can further find the actual sites on scanning these references. Thus one can easily locate wetland related papers, author, subject and area-wise from this index.



The picture depicting E.H. Aitken, the first editor of the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*, gives a wrong impression of the person. A good man in every sense, religious, broad minded, tolerant ... gentle and lovable ... a man without a single enemy. Aitken loved and was unwilling to hurt any animal, considering each to have a soul and character of its own. He collected rarely and only when essential. Truly an example of an early conservationist – with a heart!

Buceros	Vol. 3, No. 3	(1998)	)
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# BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PAPERS ON WETLANDS FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY: VOLUMES 1 - 40

The references on wetland (inland, estuarine or marine) related publications in volumes 1-40\* of the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* are listed below under various subject heads.

References on waterbird related papers are not been included in this bibliography as they will be brought out as a separate publication.

At the end of each reference, there is an additional entry of the site/sites (if any) on which the paper is based. The references under each subject head are arranged alphabetically and numbered in descending order. After the references under each head, there is a list of names of places (in alphabetical order), with numbers following them. These are the serial numbers of the reference in the bibliography. From these numbers, one can refer to the papers that pertain to a region, state or site. The subject heads or sections for the references are as follows:

Aquatic Vegetation	Freshwater or marine macrophytes, mangroves,
	algae and phytoplankton; also hydrophilous plants.
Crustaceans	Crabs, prawns, lobsters, barnacles, etc.
Molluses	Aquatic snails, bivalves, cuttlefish, squid and octopus.
Insects	Aquatic insects, including those that have part of their life stages in water.
Other Invertebrates and primitive chordates	Nereids, leeches, earthworms, parasitic worms, corals, sponge, jellyfish, zooplankton and primitive chordates.
Fish	Freshwater, marine or brackish water species.
Amphibians	All aquatic or terrestrial amphibians.
Reptiles	Crocodile, water monitor, turtles/tortoises and aquatic snakes.
Mammals	Otter, fishing cat, dugong, dolphin, whale.
General	Broadbased accounts of wetland flora and fauna

#### **AQUATIC VEGETATION**

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- 3. Biswas, K.P. (1930). Contributions to our knowledge of the freshwater algae of Manipur, Assam. Vol. 34(1): 189-192. (Manipur, Assam).
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- 18. Dixit, S.C. (1932). Some seagrasses from the Presidency of Bombay. Vol. 36(1): 284. (Bombay Presidency, Arabian Sea).
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Andhra Pradesh – 21	Maharashtra - 14, 17, 23, 24, 28, 33
Arabian Sea - 4, 18	Manipur – 3
Assam - 3, 19	Myanmar – 20
Bombay Presidency - 4, 8, 9, 10, 11,	Red Sea – 32
12, 18, 30, 31	
Gujarat – 6	Uttar Pradesh - 1
Indian Ocean – 7	West Bengal – 2
Madhya Pradesh – 13	

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- 2. Annandale, N. (1908). The Bombay "Spiny Lobster". Vol. 18(4): 927. (Maharashtra, Arabian Sea).
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- 7. McCann, C. (1937). Notes on the Common Land Crab (*Barytelphusa guerini*) of Salsette Island. Vol. 39(3): 531-542. (Mumbai, Maharashtra).
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Arabian Sea - 2, 8, 10, 11, 12	Iran - 5
Bangladesh – 9	Iraq - 5
Bay of Bengal – 1	Kerala - 8
Bombay Presidency - 11, 12	Maharashtra - 2, 7, 10
Gujarat – 6	Pakistan - 11, 12
Gulf of Kachchh – 6	Persian Gulf - 13
Gulf of Mannar – 6	Tamil Nadu - 6
West Bengal – 9	

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- 16. Hora, S.L. (1927). Animal life in torrential streams. Vol. 32(1): 111-126. (Khasi Hills, Cherrapunji, Meghalaya).
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- 18. Hornell, J. (1922). Note on the operculum of the Turban shells. Vol. 28(4): 1143-1144. (Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, Gulf of Mannar).
- 19. Marshall, H. (1922). List of mollusca of Rangoon. Vol. 28(3): 773-776. (Rangoon, Myanmar)
- 20. Maxwell, F.D. (1897). Pearl fishing in the Bassein district. Vol. 11(2): 317-320. (Bassein, Maharashtra).
- 21. Melvill, J.C. (1893). Description of twenty-five new species of marine shells from Bombay, collected by Mr. Alexander Abercrombie. Vol. 8(2): 234-245. (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Arabian Sea).
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Andaman & Nicobar Islands – 33	Karnataka – 14
Andhra Pradesh – 25, 32	Madras Presidency – 25
Arabian Sea – 1, 2, 4, 9, 15, 21, 22,	Maharashtra – 1, 2, 15, 20, 21, 22,
23, 24, 30	27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 36, 37
Bay of Bengal – 3, 4, 9	Meghalaya – 16
Bihar – 12	Myanmar – 19
Bombay Presidency – 30	Orissa – 25
Gujarat – 1, 2, 17, 21, 30	Pakistan – 30
Gulf of Aden – 34, 35, 38	Persian Gulf – 23, 24
Gulf of Kachchh – 17	Sri Lanka – 26
Gulf of Mannar – 4, 5, 17, 18, 26	Tamil Nadu – 5, 17, 18, 25
Gulf of Oman – 23, 24	Yemen – 34, 35
Indian Ocean – 4, 9	

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Andhra Pradesh - 75	Maharashtra - 5, 20, 67
Assam - 66	Meghalaya - 12, 65
Himachal Pradesh - 1, 66	Myanmar - 63, 66
Himalayas - 2	Tamil Nadu - 4, 66
Kerala - 4	West Bengal - 74

#### OTHER INVERTEBRATES

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- 2. Hora, S.L. (1927). Animal life in torrential streams. Vol. 32(1): 111-126. (Khasi Hills, Cherrapunji, Meghalaya). *See for leeches*.

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Gujarat - 3	Persian Gulf – 10
Gulf of Mannar – 3	Punjab – 6
Gulf of Kachchh - 3	Red Sea – 9
Maharashtra – 4, 5, 7	Tamil Nadu – 3
Meghalaya - 2	

#### FRESHWATER FISHES

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- 104. Wilson, C.H.E. (1924). Good bag of freshwater shark (*Wallago attu*). Vol. 30(1): 231. (Kharaghoda, Ahmedabad district, Gujarat).

Afghanistan - 32, 33, 73	Madhya Pradesh - 15
--------------------------	---------------------

Assam - 85, 90	Maharashtra - 14, 21, 23, 24, 34,
	44, 94, 97, 98, 99
Bhutan - 18	Meghalaya - 30
Bihar - 13, 16	Myanmar - 5, 29, 31, 64, 67, 70,
	71, 81, 82, 103
Bombay Presidency - 94	Orissa - 100
Central Provinces - 14, 100	Pakistan - 51, 60, 73, 89, 95,
Deccan - 94	Punjab - 17, 46, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59,
	91
Gujarat - 1, 2, 27, 96, 104	Rajasthan - 26
Himachal Pradesh - 53, 54, 58	Sikkim - 10, 18
Iraq - 9, 61, 62, 68	Sri Lanka - 19, 22
Jammu & Kashmir - 20, 48, 51,	Tamil Nadu - 4, 6, 7, 45, 60, 79,
60, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78	80, 83, 87
Karnataka - 8, 28, 60, 83	Uttar Pradesh - 60, 66
Kerala - 49, 88	West Bengal - 25, 40, 93

#### **MARINE & ESTUARINE FISHES**

- 1. Alcock, A.W. (1894). Deep sea life in the Bay of Bengal. Vol. 8(4): 545-550. (Bay of Bengal).
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- 6. Basset-Smith, P.W. (1897). Notes on the fish collection in the museum of the Bombay Natural History Society with a systematic catalogue. Vol. 10(4): 597-608.
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Andaman & Nicobar Is 27	Maharashtra - 5, 11, 20, 21, 22, 36, 44, 45, 46, 53, 55
Arabian Sea - 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 28, 31, 36, 37, 38, 40, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, 54, 55	Myanmar - 31
Bangladesh - 41	Pakistan - 28, 37, 38, 42, 52
Bay of Bengal - 1, 24, 31	Persian Gulf - 10, 33, 34, 37, 42
Gulf of Aden - 26, 50	Sea of Oman - 9, 42
Gulf of Mannar - 1, 23	Singapore - 8
Indian Ocean - 23	Sri Lanka - 16, 23
Karnataka -	Tamil Nadu - 2, 4, 32, 35, 51
Kerala - 13, 17, 18, 39, 40	West Bengal - 41
Konkan - 54	

#### **AMPHIBIANS**

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Gujarat - 33, 40	Myanmar - 15
Karnataka - 36	Pakistan - 38, 43
Kerala - 8, 9, 16, 41, 43	Sri Lanka - 9
Maharashtra - 12, 20, 24, 26, 28,	Tamil Nadu - 7, 18, 19, 44
30, 31, 34, 35	
Malaya - 10, 11	West Bengal - 6, 23

#### **CROCODILES & WATER MONITOR**

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Arabian Sea - 21	Myanmar - 12, 41
Assam - 33	Nepal - 27
Central Provinces - 17, 36, 37	Delhi - 15, 43
Gujarat - 3, 23, 30	Pakistan - 7, 24, 28,32, 34, 42
Kerala – 2, 13, 16, 21, 44	Rajasthan - 8, 26
Madhya Pradesh - 17	United Provinces - 9
Maharashtra - 1, 11, 18, 29, 39	Uttar Pradesh - 19, 22, 25, 38
Malasyia - 10	

#### **AQUATIC SNAKES**

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Andaman & Nicobar Islands -	Malaya - 19
30	
Arabian Sea - 4, 7, 9, 10, 21,	Myanmar - 5
22, 29	
Bay of Bengal - 5, 29	Delhi - 42
Bihar – 25	Pakistan - 4, 26
Goa – 28	Persian Gulf - 14
Gujarat - 11	Rajasthan - 12
Kerala - 7, 21, 22	Tamil Nadu - 1, 20, 35, 36
Madras Presidency - 36	Thailand - 17, 37
Maharashtra - 9, 10, 16, 33	West Bengal - 6

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Gujarat - 12	Kerala - 3, 5, 7
Maharashtra - 6, 8, 11	Pakistan - 4
Tamil Nadu - 1	

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Andaman & Nicobar Islands -	Kerala - 4, 5, 6, 14, 16, 19, 20, 27
23	

Andhra Pradesh - 15	Madras Presidency - 15
Arabian Sea - 6, 14, 16, 18, 19,	Maharashtra - 11, 18, 21, 25, 26
20, 21, 25, 26	
Bay of Bengal - 15	Pakistan - 13, 28
Gujarat - 4	Rajasthan - 9
Gulf of Kachchh - 4	Sri Lanka - 7
Gulf of Mannar - 4	Tamil Nadu - 4, 15, 17, 23
Himachal Pradesh - 8	Uttar Pradesh - 29
Jammu & Kashmir - 8	West Bengal - 10
Karnataka - 24	

## GENERAL – BROADBASED ACCOUNTS OF WETLANDS AND THEIR BIODIVERSITY

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Andaman & Nicobar Islands -	Kerala - 19
14, 17	
Arabian Sea - 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,	Konkan - 6, 7, 8, 12
12, 19	
Bangladesh - 15	Maharashtra - 5, 6, 7, 8, 12
Deccan - 5	Pakistan - 1, 3, 11, 21
Gujarat - 9, 10, 13	Persian Gulf - 22
Gulf of Kachchh - 10	West Bengal - 15
Karnataka - 6, 7, 8, 12	